



# Friends of the Court

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Volume 12, Number 5  
March, 2005

## Supreme Court Hears Oral Argument in Jonesboro

## Memorandum



**A large crowd attended the oral argument held at ASU on April 7, 2005.**

The Arkansas Supreme Court conducted oral argument at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro on Thursday, April 7. This was only the third occasion in modern times that the Supreme Court has held court outside of Little Rock. The first time was in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 2002. The second time was in Fort Smith in 2004. Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution, adopted by vote of the people in 2000, provides that the Supreme Court may meet at such times and places as designated by the Court.

After the oral argument, the seven Justices visited with students at various schools in the Jonesboro area, followed by a visit with ASU political science students and faculty.



**Justice Robert Brown is introduced to 5th graders at Hillcrest Elementary School in Jonesboro by their teacher, Billie Sue Hoggard.**

**From: Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Hannah**

**Date: March 14, 2005**

On behalf of the Arkansas judiciary, I want to express our profound sympathy and sorrow to the members of our state and federal court family who have been touched by violence over the last few days.

The tragic events over the weekend in the state courts in Atlanta and earlier in the week in the federal courts in Chicago underscore the responsibility we have to provide our judges and court staff as well as the members of the public who serve as jurors or who utilize our court facilities a safe place in which to work and do business. In my judgment, it is an area where we have fallen well short of our responsibility.

In 2004 while I was campaigning for the office of Chief Justice, the lack of adequate court security was an issue which I raised across the state. More recently I scheduled meetings with judges and court

(See **Chief** next page.)

## **Trial Court Assistants Hold Annual Meeting**



**Pictured (Left to Right) Maggie Honorable/AOC Case Coordinator, Janet Henry, Trial Court Assist./23rd-Judge Whiteaker, Margaret Uzzell, Trial Court Assist./23rd-Judge Hanshaw, and Vicki Kell, Trial Court Assist./19th East-Judge Epley.**

Trial Court Assistants (formerly titled Case Coordinators) met in Hot Springs in March for their annual meeting. New officers for 2005-2006 include Laura Berryman/10th-President, Jo Ann Smith/10th-Vice President, Linda Lee/6th-Secretary, Andrea Hicks/2nd-Treasurer, Joan Lester/4th-Rep. at Large, Ruth Calloway/11th West-Rep. at Large, and Pam Murphy/10th-Past President.

**(Chief continued)**

staff in a series of visits to each judicial district in our state. Without exception, the issue of inadequate court security was raised by our local court officials as a major problem with which they had to deal.

At present, courthouse security in Arkansas is strictly a county government responsibility. In a few of our counties great strides have been made to put in place policies, equipment and personnel to provide and execute a comprehensive plan for courtroom security. In many more places, however,

little to no security exists. Most often the failure to respond is not a result of a lack of interest or will but, rather, a lack of resources. We simply must do a better



job of both finding additional resources and, when necessary, reallocating current resources to insure that adequate security is in place.

During the last year the Administrative Office of the Courts sponsored a series of regional meetings and trainings on court security. I have asked that office to expand that effort to conduct a comprehensive analysis of local court facilities for the purpose of identifying and recommending improvements. One of the committees of the Arkansas Judicial Council has been working over the last year on the creation of a set of security standards which could be used by local courts. I will be asking that group to expedite that process and will commit the resources of the Administrative Office of the Courts to

assist in that effort.

Finally, I will be raising this issue with the Governor and the General Assembly as we begin to consider a broader and more long-term response. My personal belief is that the security of state courts is a state issue which requires a state response. I commend Senator Shane Broadway for his introduction of a bill which attempts to expand the availability of local resources which could be used for court security. While this is a good start, it will not address the issue of the problems of smaller and poorer counties and their inability to generate local revenue. I look forward to a thorough discussion about the steps which the state should take to provide a more comprehensive response.

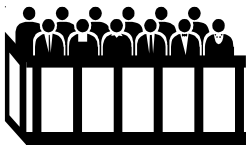
**Chief Justice Jim Hannah**

## LAW DAY.....

The theme for Law Day 2005, celebrated in May, is "The American Jury: We the People in Action". Law Day began in 1957 when a Washington, D.C. attorney envisioned a special day for celebrating our legal system. Law Day can be celebrated in schools and public outreach programs with the programs being put on by local bar associations, courts and schools.

The theme for this year is a reminder that trial by jury is one of the rights fought for during the Revolutionary War and that a jury of one's peers is a cornerstone of American democracy.

For more information, the American Bar Association has a website for Law Day 2005 and it can be found at [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org).



"I'm no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and in the jury system - that is no ideal to me, it is a living, working reality...A court is no better than each...of you sitting before me on this jury. A court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the [people] who make it up."

- Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*

---

## Official Portraits of Retired Supreme Court Justices Presented

Retired Chief Justice W.H. "Dub" Arnold and Retired Justice Ray Thornton presented their official portraits to the Supreme Court and the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Chief Justice Arnold was introduced by Buddy Sutton, Esquire, and Justice Thornton was introduced by Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Morris Arnold.

Retired Chief Justice Arnold served as Chief from January, 1977 until December, 2003, and Justice Thornton was on the bench from 1997

until 2004.

Family, friends, former members of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, current Court of Appeals Judges, Constitutional Officers, and members of the Arkansas and Federal Judiciary were in attendance. Frances Ross, President of the Supreme Court Historical Society accepted the portraits on behalf of that organization.

Following the presentations of the portraits, a reception was held in the lobby of the Justice Building.



**Chief Justice Arnold and his wife, Earlene.**



**Justice Thornton and his wife, Betty Jo.**



**(L. to R.) Retired Justice David Newbern, Associate Justice Annabelle Imber and Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright visit after the presentation.**





### Circuit Judges

11th West - Robert Wyatt replaces Fred Davis.

### Trial Court Assistants

23rd (Hanshaw) - **Margaret Uzzell** replaces Stephanie Bevis.

6th (Proctor) - **LaShannon Robinson** replaces Sally Porter.

6th (Gray) - **Sally Porter** replaces Debra Rhodes.

### Court Reporters

6th (Humphrey) - **Reni Irby** replaces Taymia Bacuom Knestrict.

### City Judges

Centerton - **Jeff Conner** replaces Ed Gartin.

Gould - Vic Harper replaces Corky Holthoff.

### City Court Clerks

Alma - **Betty Shores** replaces Karen Pointer.

Mountainburg - **Lisa Harrison** replaces Betty Morgan.

Bauxite - **Tammy Pettit** replaces Tandi Coppock.

Coal Hill - **Donna English** replaces Diana Schneider.

Gravette - **Peggy Gunter** replaces Vicki Ash.

Shannon Hills - **Sandra Wilson** replaces Karen Brown.

Turrell - **Stephanie Sanders** replaces Carol Horton.

Gould - **Linda Ramsey** replaces Earnest Nash

## New Faces in the Judiciary

Sulphur Springs - **Kathy Holland** replaces Regina Kuykendall.

### District Judges

Yell County/Danville District (new court)

**Bill Strait** is the judge.

### District Court Clerks

Melbourne - Jean Kimble

Bryant - **Debbie Broadway** replaces Dianne Pittman.

Yell County/Danville District (new court)

- **Linda Goocher** is the clerk.

DeQueen - **Phyllis Price** replaces Ruth Kolb.

Magnolia - **Sandra Wilson** replaces Rachel Waller.

Newport - **Omega Williams** replaces Charlene Altom.

Hoxie - **Katie Smith** replaces Pat Goodin.

Jasper - **Mona Ray** replaces Lori Sharp.

Benton - **Cheryl Spade** replaces Jimmy Meyer.

Eudora - **Jennifer Bordelon** replaces Becky Bodiford.

Miller County - **Debbie Thornell** replaces Carrie Jones.

### AOC

**Adrienne Oliver** replaces Erin Stone as Assistant CASA Coordinator.

**Velma Lewis** is the new administrative secretary for ACAP.

**Cynthia Bennett** replaces Rhonda Patton as data entry clerk.



### Friends of the Court

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Justice Building/625 Marshall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

## CALENDAR

### April

Spring Judicial College/ Judicial Council Mtg. (West Memphis) **20-22**

### May

District Judges Spring College & District & City Court Clerks Annual Mtg. (Hot Springs) **12-14**

Children & the Law (Little Rock) **25-27**

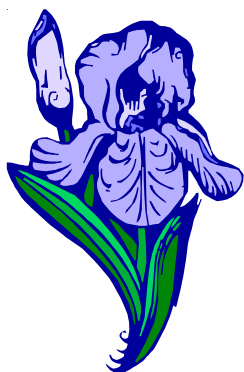
### August

District and City Court Clerks Certification- Chief Clerks (Little Rock) **18-19**

### September

District Judges Fall College (Hot Springs) **22-24**

Happy Spring!



**Friends of the Court** is a bi- monthly publication by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to **Friends of the Court**, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400. Karolyn Bond, Editor.



Address  
Correction  
Requested